

In re Application of Tisma  
Atty Docket No. 204280-9001  
Preliminary Amendment

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): ~~In A mandrel for use in an automatic packaging machine, a the mandrel comprising:~~ a support plate having at least two pairs of elongated tracks, ~~said the~~ pairs of elongated tracks being oppositely disposed, ~~said the~~ elongated tracks of each pair being vertically aligned, a finger mounted to travel on each of ~~said the~~ elongated tracks of ~~said the~~ support plate, a cam follower ~~means~~ for traveling in a cam track extending along a conveyor in ~~said the~~ automatic packaging ~~means machine~~, ~~said the~~ cam track having contours which guide and direct ~~said the~~ cam follower as a function of an instantaneous position of ~~said the~~ mandrel as it travels along ~~said the~~ conveyor, ~~rotary~~ means responsive to ~~said the~~ cam follower for moving ~~said at least two pairs of oppositely disposed~~ fingers ~~away from each other~~ on ~~said the~~ tracks, and ~~spring resilient biasing~~ means for pulling ~~said at least two pairs of oppositely disposed~~ fingers ~~closer to each other on the tracks~~ to grip an object between ~~said the~~ fingers, ~~whereby the resilient biasing means tightens the grip, and movement of said the cam follower means along said the contours opening said overcomes the resilient biasing means and loosens the grip and said spring means closing said grip.~~

Claim 2 (currently amended): The mandrel of claim 1, wherein ~~said the~~ fingers are operable to grip ~~said the~~ object at any position along the length of ~~said the~~ elongated tracks responsive to the ~~spring resilient biasing~~ means being enabled by ~~said the~~ cam follower traveling in ~~said the~~ cam track.

Claims 3-5 (Cancelled)

Claim 6 (currently amended): An automatic packaging machine comprising a conveyor for moving a plurality of object carrying mandrels around a closed path, a cam track accompanying ~~said the~~ path, ~~said the~~ cam track having contours which define functional locations along ~~said the~~ path, each of ~~said the~~ mandrels having a plurality of fingers which move

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variable distances together or apart in order to grip or release one of a plurality of objects having different widths, means responsive to said the contours of said the cam track for causing said the fingers to release said the object, and spring resilient biasing means for causing said the fingers to grip said the object, whereby objects of different widths are selectively carried by said the mandrels without requiring a readjustment of said the machine.

Claims 7 and 8 (Cancelled).

Claim 9. The automatic machine of claim 6, wherein said the object is a box, and said the machine further comprising means for causing said the fingers to open and form a box having a shape other than a parallelepiped.

Claim 10 (Cancelled).

Claim 11 (currently amended): An automatic packaging machine comprising a pair of conveyor chains forming a closed path through said the machine, a cam track extending between said the conveyor chains and along said the closed path, said the cam track having contours which define work station locations on said the path through said the machine, a cam follower for following said the cam track, a plurality of mandrels carried by said the pair of conveyor chains and controlled by said the cam follower, each of said the mandrels having a plurality of replaceable fingers for gripping and releasing an object, means including a spring for pulling said the fingers to grip said the object, and means responsive to said the cam follower and said the contours of said the cam track for enabling said spring the resilient biasing means to apply said the grip and for overcoming said spring the resilient biasing means for opening said the fingers and releasing said the grip on said the object.

Claim 12 (Cancelled)

Claim 13 (currently amended): The machine of claim 11 further comprising a support having a plurality of threaded holes defining the locations of said the fingers, said the fingers being replaced by unscrewing one set of fingers and screwing in another set of fingers.

Claim 14 (currently amended): An automatic package machine comprising a plurality of mandrels, each of said the mandrels including at least four fingers which move together and apart within a range to grip and release objects having respective varied widths, at least one conveyor means having a plurality of support platforms attached thereto at periodic locations along the length thereof, means associated with said the support platforms for moving said the mandrels between a position in which said the grip is applied and a position in which said the release is applied as said the conveyor moves said the support platforms along a predetermined path, finger width control means including a cam slot extending along said predetermined path, the cam slot having contours providing said the control, said the contours enabling a change in width of a spacing between said the fingers as said the conveyor moves along said the predetermined path, a cam follower mounted on said the mandrel to follow said the cam slot, spring resilient biasing means for controlling the position of said the fingers to apply said the grip when enabled by the contours in which the associated cam follower moves, said spring the resilient biasing means causing said the fingers to apply a grip to said the object, means responsive to a movement of said the cam follower in said the contours for moving said the fingers apart to increase the width between said the fingers in order to release said the object or to enable said spring the resilient biasing means for moving said the fingers together to grip said the object, said the cam follower being mounted on an individually associated rotary shaft, a pair of lever arms coupled to said the rotary shaft and extending from said the rotary shaft to an associated pair of said the fingers, means responsive to a movement of said the cam follower and to a resulting rotation of said the shaft for pulling or pushing said the lever arms and moving said the fingers together or apart.

Claims 15-22 (cancelled).